

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

1                   11.     (Currently amended) A hybrid riser configuration having a submerged  
2 tower comprising a plurality of riser pipes substantially inserted in guide conduits, and also  
3 having buoyancy means ~~and tethering tension~~ acting as tower tensioning means, the riser pipes  
4 and guide conduits being connected to a base anchored to the ocean floor, wherein a plurality of  
5 the guide conduits are acting as multiple tethers, each guide conduit further acting as a radial  
6 constraint in elastic spiral deformation of the riser pipe inside, wherein during tow-out and  
7 installation, the guide conduits provide necessary buoyancy to make the riser configuration,  
8 except the base and buoyancy means, nearly neutrally buoyant.

1                   12.     (Previously presented) A hybrid riser configuration according to claim 11,  
2 wherein the riser pipes and guide conduits are rigidly connected both to the base and the  
3 buoyancy means of the riser configuration.

1                   13.     (Previously presented) A hybrid riser configuration according to claim 11,  
2 wherein the material of the guide conduits comprises aluminium or a similar light metal.

1                   14.     (Previously presented) A hybrid riser configuration according to claim 11,  
2 wherein the riser configuration is protected by sacrificial anodes.

1                   Claim 15 (Canceled).

1                   16.     (Previously presented) A hybrid riser configuration according to claim 12,  
2 wherein the material of the guide conduits comprises aluminium or a similar light metal.

1                   17.     (Previously presented) A hybrid riser configuration according to claim 12,  
2 wherein the riser configuration is protected by sacrificial anodes.

1                   18.     (Previously presented) A hybrid riser configuration according to claim 12,  
2 wherein during tow-out and installation, the guide conduits provide necessary buoyancy to make  
3 the riser configuration, except the base and buoyancy means, near neutrally buoyant.

1                   19.     (Previously presented) A hybrid riser configuration according to claim 13,  
2 wherein the riser configuration is protected by sacrificial anodes.

1                   20.     (Previously presented) A hybrid riser configuration according to claim 13,  
2 wherein during tow-out and installation, the guide conduits provide necessary buoyancy to make  
3 the riser configuration, except the base and buoyancy means, near neutrally buoyant.

1                   21.     (Currently amended) A method for installing a riser configuration having  
2 a submerged tower comprising a plurality of riser pipes substantially inserted in guide conduits  
3 and also having a buoyancy tank and gravity base connected by said riser pipes and guide  
4 conduits, comprising the steps of:

5                   -         fabricating a bundle of guide conduits and riser pipes on a roller bed or rail  
6 bed from which it can be launched,

7                   -         connecting the buoyancy tank and gravity base to opposite ends of said  
8 bundle,

9                   -         sealing at least a plurality of the guide conduits and riser pipes of the  
10 bundle,

11                  -         launching the resultant structure and connecting the buoyancy tank and  
12 gravity base ends of the structure to respective towing vessels via towing wires,

13                  -         flooding the buoyancy tank to provide it with substantial negative  
14 buoyancy so that both the tank and the base will act as clump weights,

15                   -       towing the structure to the offshore location for its installation as a sub-  
16 surface tow while maintaining sufficient angle and tension in the towing wires to maintain  
17 substantial tension in the pipe bundle,  
18                   -       lowering the base end of the structure by paying out the towing wire  
19 connected to the base,  
20                   -       permitting water to enter the spaces formed between the riser pipes and  
21 their respective guide conduit when the base has reached a predetermined depth in order to limit  
22 the differential pressure across the wall of the guide conduits,  
23                   -       continuing to lower[[ing]] the base end of the structure until the structure  
24 is perpendicular and suspended from the towing wire connected to the buoyancy tank, and  
25                   -       lowering the structure to allow the base to penetrate the bottom mud-line  
26 and anchoring the base to the ocean floor, and removing the water ballast and towing wire from  
27 the buoyancy tank, thus providing tension in the guide conduits.

1                   22.     (Previously presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein a motion  
2 compensating system is employed in the towing wire between the buoyancy tank and surface  
3 vessel.

1                   23.     (Previously presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein the guide  
2 conduits are fabricated by welding together sections of aluminium pipe using friction stir  
3 welding.

1                   24.     (Previously presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein said  
2 guide conduits are made by joining sections of aluminium pipe which are made with a  
3 longitudinal seam welded by means of friction stir welding.

1                   25.     (Previously presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein at least  
2 some of the annular spaces between the riser pipes and the corresponding guide conduits are  
3 filled with a gel after expelling any water having entered said spaces during installation of the  
4 structure.

1                   26.     (Previously presented) A method according to claim 22, wherein the  
2     guide conduits are fabricated by welding together sections of aluminium pipe using friction stir  
3     welding.

1                   27.     (Previously presented) A method according to claim 22, wherein said  
2     guide conduits are made by joining sections of aluminium pipe which are made with a  
3     longitudinal seam welded by means of friction stir welding.

1                   28.     (Previously presented) A method according to claim 22, wherein at least  
2     some of the annular spaces between the riser pipes and the corresponding guide conduits are  
3     filled with a gel after expelling any water having entered said spaces during installation of the  
4     structure.

1                   29.     (Previously presented) A method according to claim 23, wherein said  
2     guide conduits are made by joining sections of aluminium pipe which are made with a  
3     longitudinal seam welded by means of friction stir welding.

1                   30.     (Previously presented) A method according to claim 23, wherein at least  
2     some of the annular spaces between the riser pipes and the corresponding guide conduits are  
3     filled with a gel after expelling any water having entered said spaces during installation of the  
4     structure.